

## Israeli troops wound 3 in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot and wounded three Palestinians in Gaza City Saturday while dispersing a demonstration by radicals opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks, Palestinian sources said. Israel Radio said earlier border police had opened fire on a car trying to run a roadblock on the Haifa road in Tel Aviv late on Friday, wounding an Arab man. Two other Arab men in the car were injured when it crashed. The radio said two of the men were from the Gaza Strip and did not have permits to be inside Israel. The third was from the Arab village of Baka Al Gharbiya. It did not say which of them had been shot. The radio said the three had earlier fled in their car when a patrol of civilian police volunteers stopped them in north Tel Aviv to check identity papers.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan تأثير يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية الرأي

Volume 16 Number 4851

AMMAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1991, JUMADEH AL OULA 4, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Moscow voices concern about Golan settlement

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has expressed concern about new Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights and said they contradicted Israel's expressed desire for confidence-building steps with its Arab neighbours. TASS news agency, quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Moscow believed that those steps which made resolving the Middle East conflict more difficult should not be allowed. "The continuation of settlement activity on the occupied Arab territories, which naturally include the Golan Heights, contradicts the Israeli leadership's frequently expressed interest in confidence-building measures from both sides," it said. Israel Monday inaugurated a Jewish settlement on the Golan Heights. The Foreign Ministry remarks, couched in mild terms, said Moscow hoped Israel would take note of its concern and take steps to defuse the problem.

## Kuwait plans defence pact with Britain

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's defence minister was quoted Saturday as saying the emir would sign a defence pact with Britain before the end of November. The minister, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, told Sawt Al Kuwait newspaper that his country would also buy "advanced weapons" from Britain "in the near future." The pact, he said, would give Kuwait priority in purchasing weapons and training for the Kuwait army. It would also provide "logistic services to the British forces in Kuwait should the need arise." Sheikh Ali said a similar agreement would be reached with France.

## Iranian, Qatari leaders meet

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met in Tehran Saturday with Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said the two discussed bilateral issue and "agreements reached between the two countries. Broader cooperation in international issues, and between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were among the issues discussed at the meeting."

## Iranian paper says no ties with Egypt

NICOSIA (AP) — A hardline Iranian newspaper Saturday denounced a leading parliamentarian's calls for resumption of ties with Egypt, saying it would be a blow to Tehran's revolutionary prestige, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted the daily Jomhuri Islami as saying that the present interest sections each country maintains in the other's capital are sufficient. "Promotion of ties with Cairo would not be interpreted in the Arab World or by Muslim public opinion as a mere expansion of relations," the Farsi-language paper said.

## Indian foreign minister in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki arrived in Tehran Saturday, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said Mr. Solanki was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Solanki said that he will study political, economic and cultural issues with Iranian officials. Mr. Velayati said that Mr. Solanki's visit was of "special significance." Over the past year, Iranian leaders have issued occasional outbursts at the Indian government's throttling of a secessionist movement in Kashmir in northern India. But ties between the two countries remain good.

## French actor, singer Yves Montand dies

PARIS (R) — French actor and singer Yves Montand, who delighted audiences around the world with hundreds of songs and some 40 films, died Saturday in a Paris suburb at the age of 70, French radio said. Mr. Montand is best known to audiences for the film "Let's Make Love" and

## Masri says Washington best venue for multilaterals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Taher Masri said Saturday that Washington could be the best venue for holding Arab-Israeli talks on regional issues and that such talks could start soon. The multilateral talks, which will focus on issues such as water, disarmament and the environment, are to involve the United States, the Soviet Union and the European Community (EC) countries as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union in addition to the five Arab countries directly involved in the Middle East conflict. Canada, Japan and probably Britain and France will also attend, the prime minister said.

The conference could be considered semi-international as earlier demanded by the Arab parties. Mr. Masri said.

"We hope such conference will serve as a tool in the hands of the Arab parties to counter the bi-

lateral talks with Israel," he said in an interview with Agence France Presse (AFP).

In reply to a question about Jordan's position, if Syria or the Palestinians decide to withdraw from the bilateral talks which began at last week's peace conference in Madrid, Mr. Masri said that he saw no signs that Syria would withdraw.

The arrangements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for the involvement of Arab parties in the conference are those that had been carried out in Madrid although there were differences over a number of details, Mr. Masri noted.

"In my view," he said, "there are no differences on basic issues between Israel and Syria on the one hand and between the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel, on the other."

He said there were no signs that Syria would boycott the talks. "Until now we have not delved into matters of substance

which could bring about differences or end in deadlock that might justify withdrawal or retreat," he said.

Mr. Masri denied that there were differences between the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Syria, "though, there were different views on the place of bilateral talks and these were soon smoothed over."

On prospects of resuming the dialogue between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he said that he did not believe this would happen soon since the United States has shown no interest in such dialogue and this is not possible now since Israel is always trying to find an excuse to boycott the conference. But the prime minister said Jordan would like to see the dialogue resumed as soon as possible.

The prime minister said that Jordan's priority was to see Israel recognising the Palestinians and returning the land to its owners



Taher Masri

and any talk about Palestinian-Jordanian confederation can wait.

In principle Jordan is in agreement to the confederation idea but such step can only be tackled as the negotiations progress and in full understanding with the Palestinian side, Mr. Masri said. Discussion of this topic is premature now and we want to concentrate on the original issue at a time when Israel still refuses to

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## Palestinian team leaves for W. Bank, demands diplomatic treatment

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian negotiators and advisors who attended last week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid in a joint delegation with Jordan will leave for the West Bank Sunday after holding three days of talks in the Kingdom.

The team arrived in Amman Wednesday from Madrid along with the Jordanian negotiators and advisors. During its stay in Jordan, the Palestinian delegation held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and a number of Jordanian officials.

In a press conference Saturday, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, member of the Palestinian "guidance committee," told reporters: "We have asked for assurance from the co-sponsors of the peace conference that the Palestinian delegates be treated as a whole team with diplomatic status" upon entering the occupied territories and that there would be no attempt to harass the delegation.

"We will not accept any interference and we will not make any contacts with the Israeli authority," Dr. Ashrawi said. There would be representatives of the co-sponsors at the bridge,

she said. "I hope this will bring Israel to deal with us equity, and if Israel violates our freedoms, we will protest."

The Palestinian delegation is also hoping to be met by "our own people," she said.

Dr. Ashrawi said that the delegation had done its best in Madrid to do well with what was entrusted to them, especially "the rights of Palestinians and the Palestinian identity."

"The delegation spoke with strength, belief and trust of people," she said.

The time and venue for the next round of bilateral talks will be announced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Nov. 17, Dr. Ashrawi said.

So far there is a deadlock on the venue of the talks. Palestinians insist the talks should be in Madrid. Israel insists the bilateral should be held in the Middle East.

"Washington (as a venue) has not been decided yet," Dr. Ashrawi said. "We do not consider Washington a neutral place because of the strong Israeli lobby there and because the United States Congress is always supportive of the Israelis."

She noted that the U.S. had not resumed its suspended dia-

logue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), although the Soviet Union has renewed its official relations with Israel. "If the U.S. wants the conference to be held in Washington, then they should partially renew relations with the PLO or at least acknowledge the PLO," Dr. Ashrawi said.

The U.S. dialogue with the PLO was officially opened in January 1990 after the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist and renunciation of terrorism. But it was suspended 18 months later when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat refused to denounce a raid on Tel Aviv by the Palestine Liberation Front.

Speaking of the letters of assurance from the United States to the Palestinians, Dr. Ashrawi said: "There is a clear American intention which aims at ending occupation, especially that of Jerusalem."

On the question of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation she said: "The Palestinian understanding of a confederation is one among independent countries that would enter a confederacy with its own will." The Palestine National Council (PNC) has endorsed such a confederation between Jordan and



Hanan Ashrawi

Palestine, she noted.

But Dr. Ashrawi pointed out that the delegation was not going according to all the items of the letter of assurances "because it is not our agenda. The letter of assurance does not bind us to do anything against our will." She said: "It expresses the formal political American stand and it binds the U.S. with it and not the Palestinian side."

"We went to the peace conference saying that international legality binds us to resolutions 242 and 338. We are seeking to influence the formal American stand," Dr. Ashrawi said. "When we accepted invitations to the conference, we made it clear that

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## Musa: Regional talks could start without Syria

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt said talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours on regional issues such as water and arms control would be delayed but might start without Syria.

"We cannot stick (to the original timetable) because the Syrians have shown they are not willing to take part before progress is made in bilateral talks with Israel," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in remarks published on Saturday.

"Maybe (the regional talks) will start without Syrian presence in

their first stage," Mr. Musa added in an interview with the magazine October.

Mr. Musa said it was important the bilateral talks — the second stage of U.S.-Soviet sponsored peace talks which began in Madrid last month — go ahead soon despite apparent deadlock over where they should take place.

"We are anxious that bilateral talks should begin next week... some of them in America, some of them perhaps in European cities," Mr. Musa said. "But we agree with Syria that they should

not be held in the Middle East at least in the present stage."

Mr. Musa did not say whether Egypt will attend the multilateral if the Syrians stay away. Nor did he express an opinion on Syrian position.

Mr. Musa endorsed Syria's demand that bilateral talks, which began in Madrid, resume in Europe or the United States, the likely venue. Israel wants them to alternate between Israeli and Arab sites.

Syria and Egypt coordinated closely during the Madrid confer-

ence. Their foreign ministers are likely to meet privately Sunday and Monday at a conference on security in the Gulf after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad are also expected to meet soon to discuss the peace process, the weekly Akhbar Al Youm reported Saturday.

Syria demands progress in the bilateral talks, including a clear Israeli position on return of the occupied Golan Heights, before it will join in multilaterals.

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## Water — the rare commodity could make or break Mideast peace

By Ghadeer Taher

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When Israel and the Arab states sit down for negotiations on much-needed multilateral water-sharing agreements in the third stage of Middle East peace talks, they will lack well tested legal principles governing the issue. But, according to experts, water may in the final analysis determine the future of conflict or peace.

Now, as for many years, water experts have warned that the threat of a water crisis in the Jordan River basin has been steadily increasing and could lead to outbreak of warfare between the riparians as well as domestic strife as competition rises among users within each country.

"Relative to the number of

people in Jordan, Israel and the occupied territories there is not enough water," said Dr. Elias Salameh, head of the Water Research Department at the University of Jordan. "It is a zero-sum game. Any gain for the Arabs is a loss for Israel, and vice versa."

The Jordan River, which originates in the highlands of Lebanon and Syria, is shared by Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel, and all these states are experiencing water shortages. In his assessment of the prospects for peace in the region, University of Pennsylvania Professor Thomas Naff said that while it may be possible to eventually overcome Israel's security arguments for retention of the occupied territories, "the hydrological arguments will persist unless the water issue is settled. It is water, in

the final analysis, that will determine the future of the occupied territories — and by extension, the issue of conflict or peace."

"The reality, historic and contemporary, is that the Jordan basin's actors do not resort to law to settle water disputes; these issues are determined by the relative power relationships in the basin at any given time," Prof. Naff, who had addressed a water conference in Amman last month, told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Israel, which, according to Prof. Naff, consumes 87 per cent of the territories' water on both sides of the green line, is using water as a reason for never withdrawing from the occupied territories.

Israel's agriculture ministry paid for full-page newspaper

advertisement earlier this year in which it argued that ending the occupation would leave Israel powerless to prevent Palestinian "mismanagement, lack of knowledge or plain neglect" of the shared mountain aquifer and "endanger its very existence."

Israel's consumption of most of the West Bank water makes it almost impossible to consider the return of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to the West Bank in a political settlement unless Tel Aviv relinquishes its hold on the territories' vital resources.

Israel now restricts Palestinian water consumption in the territories to 20 per cent of the shared mountain aquifer in the West Bank. Thus, the Palestinian water supply has barely increased since Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967.

Even the briefest glimpse at the region's geography and demography shows why the issue is so fissile: populations are growing far more rapidly than aquifers can be replenished; rivers cross borders between enemy states making sharing unlikely; and rainfall, in many areas, is scarce and capricious.

But when the Arabs and Israeli negotiators attempt to find equitable solutions to water issues, the basic problem will be applying international riparian law, which remains rudimentary, at the talks.

Furthermore, a political agreement is also needed to clear the way for financing several water projects that have been bogged down over political difference between the countries affected by these projects. Jordan's Al Wihda Dam near the Jordan-Syria

border, which the Kingdom agreed to provide about 200 million cubic metres per year (mcu/m), was frozen after Israel intervened with the World Bank to bloc financing two years ago.

"When you talk about the legal basis of the arguments that the negotiators are going to bring to the table, you are talking about a set of legal principles that are articulated but are not well tested in most cases," Prof. Naff said. "Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and Lebanese will legitimately invoke a variety of legal principles to establish their claims and that is where the problem lies."

He said the existing law, although not an effective mechanism for settling the issue, can be an "effective instrument for maintaining an

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## Iraqi refugees staying in Iran for winter

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi refugees have stopped leaving the west Iranian province of Bakhtaran because of the approach of winter, the official news agency IRNA said Saturday. The 12,000 refugees in the province reckon that living conditions in the Bakhtaran camps are better than they would be at home in winter, it said. The United Nations says there are about 60,000 Iraqi refugees at 30 camps in the whole of Iran. Some 1.4 million fled Iraq when Kurdish and Shiite rebellions against the Baghdad government collapsed in April. Most have since gone home. IRNA said 490,000 refugees had gone home from Bakhtaran and this had led to improved conditions for those who remain.

Arab negotiators achieved "big positive gains" in Madrid and repudiated several Israeli attempts to provoke them.

Muwafak Al Allaf, who led the Syrian side to last Sunday's separate Syrian-Israeli talks, said sitting at the negotiating table proved to the world that Arabs were not unwilling to talk to their enemy for the sake of achieving a just and comprehensive peace."

Speaking on Syrian television, Mr. Allaf said President Assad directed the delegation to put up

"with anything which does not affect our rights and with any attempt to provoke us into walking out of the conference."

Mr. Allaf described Foreign Minister Sharaf's waving of an old poster showing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as a "terrorist" wanted by Britain as a "magnificent move."

"That summed up the nature of the Israeli regime. That is what was left fixed in the minds of the world," he said.

Mr. Allaf, a former Syrian ambassador to the United Nations and currently a U.N. ex-

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## PLO, Syria reconciled; Fateh to reopen offices

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi said Saturday the PLO

## Ashrawi: U.S. assured Palestinians of end of occupation

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States government has given assurances that there will be an end to Israeli occupation of Arab territories at the final stages of the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, members of a Palestinian delegation said Friday.

An end of the Israeli occupation will be the final outcome of the peace process, Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman at the Madrid peace conference told a congregation of mostly Palestinian Jerusalemites at the Shooman foundation Friday evening.

Dr. Ashrawi, Faisal Husseini, Ghassan Al Khatib and Zahira Kamal answered questions fielded by some of the 300 people who attended the gathering organised by the Jerusalem-based Beit Al Maqdis Foundation.

"The U.S. has given us guarantees that there will be an end to Israeli occupation at the end of this peace process," Dr. Ashrawi told the audience.

The intermediary phases, which are scheduled to take up to five years, will involve a transitional stage of self-rule and a transfer of administration from Israelis to Palestinians.

Mr. Khatib, a member of the 14-strong Palestinian delegation at last week's Madrid con-

ference, said that there were guarantees that the transitional phases which would involve a transfer of power would be intermediate and not permanent. He added that an implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would guarantee a peace based on a land for peace resolution of the Arab-Israeli delegation said Friday.

The audience expressed fear that the sacrifices made by thousands of Palestinians would be forgotten and undermined by the recent change in Palestinian politics. Several of the questions posed to the panel indicated that people were frustrated by the "total change" in attitude by the Palestinian leadership which is now opting for a political rather than military solution to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

"The rules of the game have changed in this era and so we must learn to play according to the new rules. At this point the political struggle has replaced the military one," Mr. Husseini explained to the audience.

The delegates told the audience that the time had come for Palestinians to fight for their rights in the political arena because they did not stand a winning chance in a military war against Israel.

"We cannot successfully fight Israel on the military

front, it is futile," he said. "But international law fully supports our legitimate claims and aspirations and so we must fight for our rights with the means that will give us a reasonable chance of success," added Mr. Husseini, head of a steering committee which guided the Palestinian team in Madrid.

The 14-member Palestinian delegation and the seven-member guidance committee, of which all four speakers are members, have all been looked upon by many in the international community as a new Palestinian leadership, but Dr. Ashrawi left no doubt about the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"Maybe you noticed," Dr. Ashrawi told the audience, "the speeches of the Arab delegations ended with a verse from the Koran, the Israelis quoted the Torah and we ended our talk with the words of Yasser Arafat."

"The PLO is the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people," she said at one point while being questioned by a very critical audience.

Mr. Khatib reiterated Dr. Ashrawi's assurances to the audience about the place of the PLO in Palestinian politics when he said, "we are the delegation, we are not the leadership."

Despite differences between Arab countries and the Palestinians, Mr. Khatib said, the importance of overcoming

the frontline Arab states will go their own way to make a separate peace with Israel as Anwar Sadat of Egypt did in 1979 when he signed the Camp David peace accords.

Above and beyond the signing of a separate peace accord, many Palestinians now believe that Sadat signed away land for land, when the Israelis retreated from the occupied Sinai in return for Sadat's silence over the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian negotiating team however, said that they did have confidence in the frontline Arab states to negotiate with Israel in a coordinated stance with the Palestinians and other Arab countries.

"Most of the Arab delegates in Madrid did not even look at the Israelis not to mention contemplate a separate peace," Dr. Ashrawi told the audience.

The delegates said it was to the advantage of the Palestinians to have all the frontline states at the peace conference because a united stand made the chances for success more plausible.

"We played a major role in getting all the Arab delegations to Madrid because we felt it was best to address the Arab-Israeli conflict in its entirety," Mr. Khatib pointed out.

Despite differences between Arab countries and the Palestinians, Mr. Khatib said, the importance of overcoming

those differences in the face of a greater danger must not be undermined by the Palestinians. "We cannot go it alone."

The Arab people would not allow for any Arab leadership to "sell out" the Palestinians and not pay a very heavy price. "The single most important Arab cause is still Palestine, and wants 'quiet dialogue' to resolve differences."

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Islamic resistance movement Hamas says it is alarmed by Palestinian infighting over peace talks with Israel and wants "quiet dialogue" to resolve differences.

Hamas, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) fundamentalist rival in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, opposed the Arab-Israeli peace conference which opened in Madrid last month but says that should not affect Palestinian unity.

The right of return, as guaranteed in countless U.N. General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, is a "non-negotiable right," Dr. Husseini told the audience.

The right of return was clearly mentioned as such in the Palestinian speech presented on the second day of the Madrid conference by Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi.

The delegates said they did not know yet at which stage of the negotiations this issue would be raised with the Israelis.

It gave no details of the violence, but blamed the mainstream (PLO) group.

"We affirm our commitment to the charter of Fateh ... and call on our brothers in Fateh to abide by it," it said referring to a truce reached in the four-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israel.

"Quiet dialogue and constructive debate is the only way to resolve our problems and differences," it said.

Palestinians reported several clashes when Arafat supporters tried unsuccessfully to prevent a general strike in the occupied territories ordered by Hamas and leftist at the start of the Madrid talks.

Hamas told Palestinians who decorated "the patrols of the murderers with olive branches" that "Palestine will not be liberated without the bullets of the martyrs and the blood of the martyrs."

The PLO said Friday it rejected an Israeli suggestion that Palestinians call off the uprising in the occupied territories before Arab-Israeli peace talks resume.

Nabil Shaath, main political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Israel had proposed a suspension of the uprising as a Palestinian goodwill gesture in return for Israel relaxing some of the repressive measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Shaath, who watched last week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid on behalf of the PLO, also rejected suggestions to stop the intifada in return for a halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied land, a longstanding Arab demand.

"The intifada can only stop when Israeli military occupation ends and Israeli soldiers withdraw from towns, villages and camps" in the occupied territories, he said.

"Now there are no reasons whatsoever for stopping the intifada," he added.

Egypt, the only Arab state at peace with Israel, expects the second phase of direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours to resume in Washington within two weeks, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Friday.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said Friday direct peace talks between Israel and the Arabs will resume very soon.

Mr. Gonzalez, who hosted the first face-to-face negotiations between Israel and Syria, Lebanon and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation last week, also said he believed multilateral talks on Middle East problems would start within three weeks.

## Hamas wants dialogue to end feud

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fez court sentences students to jail

RABAT (R) — A court in the central Moroccan city of Fez has sentenced 30 university students to between six months and four years in jail in connection with violent clashes on Oct. 25 and 31, the official news agency MAP said. A first group of 26 — 12 Muslim fundamentalists and 14 Marxists — were arrested on Oct. 25 and charged with assault and battery and taking part in an affray. Thirteen were sentenced Friday to four years, three to six months, six to two years, one to one year, and three to six months, MAP said. They were also fined. In a separate trial, also in Fez, four fundamentalist students were sentenced to between six months and four years in jail on similar charges.

### U.S. selling more Patriots to Saudis

WASHINGTON (R) — Bush administration officials have informed members of Congress that the United States intends to sell another 14 more Patriot missile batteries to Saudi Arabia. Department sources say, the sale would amount to \$3.3 billion, said the sources, who spoke only on condition that they not be identified. The sale of eight Patriot surface-to-air missile systems already has been approved by Congress. They are scheduled for delivery to the Saudis next year or in 1993. In September, the administration shipped two Patriot missile batteries to the kingdom when tensions rose over U.N. inspections of Iraqi weapons systems. Those batteries were not part of the sale. House of Representatives and Senate members were briefed privately Wednesday about the sale, the sources said. The Patriots are in demand because of their superior performance during the Gulf war, when they defended Saudi Arabia and Israel against Iraqi Scud missile attacks. Although the Patriot system is considered defensive, some members of Congress say they oppose sending any weapons systems to the Middle East during peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The Defense Department said Thursday it will not sell F-15 fighter jets to any Mideast nation for the next several months.

### Turkish parliament to hire Kurdish translator

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish parliament will hire a Kurdish translator after a Kurdish nationalist member used a Kurdish phrase while taking the oath Wednesday, the daily newspaper Sabah said Saturday. Leyla Zana, a Social Democratic Populist member from the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, said in Kurdish, "Long live the Kurdish people and Kurdistan." It was the first time anyone had used the language in parliament, normally an exclusively Turkish-speaking institution. The staff who record parliamentary proceedings could not make the phrase out. Turkey has about 10 million Kurds, 18 per cent of the country's population, but until April it was an offence to speak or sign in the Kurdish language. Sabah said the translator would be hired from the foreign ministry.

### U.N. discusses changing Cyprus force funds

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Security Council members held closed-door consultations Friday on a proposal to switch financing of the debt-ridden U.N. peace keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) from a voluntary to an assessed basis, but no resolution is expected until next month. The force, now comprising some 2,100 troops and a few dozen civilian police, was established in 1964 to help keep peace between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities. Austria, Britain, Canada and Denmark provide the largest contingents, in addition to smaller numbers from Finland, Ireland and Sweden and about 40 police from Australia and Sweden. The countries providing troops already bear about 70 per cent of UNFICYP's costs. The rest, including "extra and extraordinary costs" for which troop contributors seek varying levels of reimbursement, is supposed to be covered by voluntary contributions from U.N. members. But UNFICYP is now some \$180 million in debt and the United Nations is 10 years in arrears in reimbursing troop-contributing countries. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed in a report last month that the U.N. share of UNFICYP's costs should be an assessed charge against all members of the organisation. He also proposed a cut in reimbursements. The council is expected to act on the secretary-general's recommendations when UNFICYP's six-month mandate comes up for renewal in mid-December.

### Turkish Cypriots free Greek Cypriot

NICOSIA (R) — The Turkish-Cypriot authorities have freed a Greek Cypriot arrested trying to return to his home in the north of the divided island. Cyprus Television reported Friday. It said Marios Svongaras, 20, was handed over by the United Nations officials, who keep the peace in Cyprus. Mr. Svongaras, whose family were driven from the northern village of Ayios Yiorgios by the 1974 Turkish invasion, disappeared on Oct. 29 leaving a note saying he was "going home." He was detained in the north on charges of illegal entry. Turkish troops invaded Cyprus after a coup engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. Turkish Cypriots later declared a breakaway republic in the north which only Turkey recognises.

### Bulgaria lifts ban on Turkish language

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria has overturned a ban on Turkish language lessons to try to end a two-month boycott by ethnic Turkish schoolchildren, Education Ministry officials said Friday. Turkish, banned from Bulgarian schools under communist rule, was introduced as an optional school subject six months ago. But the country's previous parliament, dominated by former communists, outlawed it again last month. The reintroduction of optional lessons came only four days after the opening of a new parliament — the first assembly in more than four decades not dominated by communists. Bulgaria's 1.5 million strong ethnic Turkish community has demanded that Turkish become a formal part of the school curriculum rather than an optional subject. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Turkish schoolchildren are boycotting school for a second month to press their demand. The Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), which represents the Turkish minority in parliament, said the lifting of the ban would not stop the boycott.

## Palestinian-Americans seek U.S. help to reclaim land

DETROIT (AP) — Palestinian-Americans, saying Israel illegally seized their land on the West Bank, have asked the U.S. State Department to investigate, according to the Group's Michigan attorney.

"We feel that this country here should protect the rights of its citizens," said Samir Mashni, legal adviser to the Detroit-based American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine. "Those rights are being violated by a foreign country that's an ally of ours."

Mr. Mashni said the group submitted an appeal to the State Department. An unidentified department source told the Detroit News in Thursday's editions that the government is "paying attention to it."

U.S. Rep. David Bonior passed the group's concerns on to the State Department, said Ed Bruley, a spokesman for Mr. Bonior.

"We're concerned about the fact that people's land was ex-

propriated without due process," Mr. Bruley said.

The 150 hectares 1.6 kilometres west of Ramallah on the Israeli-occupied West Bank has been designated "security zone" by the Israeli army, angering the owners of the 150 sections of which 120 are owned by Palestinian-Americans. The families live in metropolitan Detroit, San Francisco, Chicago, Jacksonville, and Knoxville, Mr. Mashni said.

"United States policy is clearly against the taking of American-owned property, and it's clearly against Jewish settlements in the occupied territories," he said.

Israel General Dani Yotam issued the order, which prohibits people from visiting it unless they have "written permission from me or my designate." The land is fenced off and cannot be farmed, Mr. Mashni said.

The Palestinians are worried the land will be turned over to Jewish settlers, despite Israeli officials saying it was seized for "security" purposes and will be

appropriated without due process," Mr. Bruley said.

"The soil is rich and it's in proximity to Jerusalem," said Dr. Issa Khouri of Detroit, whose family owns four hectares.

George Salem, a Palestinian-American lawyer in Washington, D.C., said he believes the State Department can pressure Israel. He said the group has more faith in the U.S. government than in the Israeli justice system.

"We wouldn't do such a thing

## U.N. expert casts doubts on effectiveness of chemical arms

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's feared chemical weapons appear to be crude and untested devices which cost billions of dollars to develop and will cost millions to destroy, the head of a United Nations team making an inventory said Saturday.

Marius Van Zelm, the Dutch head of a U.N. inspection mission seeking to scrap Iraq's most lethal weapons, told reporters that at the main Muthana site his mission found 6,120 chemical munitions and enough nerve gas to fill another 15,000.

But he cast doubt on the effectiveness of Iraq's billion-dollar technology, which had residents of Saudi Arabia and Israel rushing for gas masks almost nightly at the height of the Gulf war in January and February.

He said he doubted the fuses in Iraq's Scud missiles were sophisticated enough to explode in New York to report a special commission set up to scrap Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Van Zelm said his team

found 75 tonnes of nerve gas and 280 tonnes of mustard gas at the Muthana site 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

"Thousands of drums were lying around ... it's a messy place. Like any other chemical industry there is always a problem of waste and that was not solved very nicely. They put stuff in any container and dumped it in a deserted place."

He said the equipment and chemicals at Muthana

## SSC working on comprehensive health plan for Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — If plans being worked out by the Social Security Corporation (SSC), are approved all citizens employed in various private and public institutions, in Jordan will enjoy health insurance services in the coming year.

The news was announced by SSC Director General Mohammad Al Saqqaf following a meeting of the SSC advisory committee, which has been studying the application of a national health scheme benefiting all institutions.

The committee has approved of a general framework of a draft project prepared by the University of Jordan's Studies Centre and worked out with the help of an international expert invited by the SSC, according to Mr. Saqqaf.

The SSC has embarked on preliminary measures designed to carry out this vital project back in 1991, which is consi-

dered as one of the numerous tasks of the SSC, he said. The advisory committee, he said, groups representatives of various health organisations, trade unions and other institutions who helped prepare the basic elements of the plan, Mr. Saqqaf added.

The 12-year old SSC now provides services to 613,000 beneficiaries whose savings with the SSC now stand at JD 416 million, most of which is invested in major income-generating projects and development schemes designed to earn more income.

In an earlier statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Saqqaf said that the SSC has invested in banks, hotels and resthouses, development bonds, real estate, and it also gave housing loans and continues to seek sound investments in profitable projects. More than one third of the JD 416 million are currently invested in banks as



Mohammad Al Saqqaf  
shares or deposits, Mr. Saqqaf said.

The SSC is currently building two major hospitals in Amman and Irbid and a spa at the Dead Sea. The two hospitals will each cost about JD 15 million and the spa JD 12 million, Mr. Saqqaf said.

SSC officials said that be-

tween 1 per cent and 2 per cent will be cut from each employee's salary to cover the cost of the health scheme. The plan will be comprehensive and will include hospitalisation, medical examination and medicines. Each beneficiary will have the right to choose any hospital for treatment, he said.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the advisory committee ruled that there must be a special fund for these salary cuts to finance the operations and the account must be separate from the existing funds that pay for old age pension, treatment for occupational injuries, deaths and others.

Mr. Saqqaf said that the advisory committee's meeting which approved the plan's version was attended by Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abdali, Jordan Medical Association President Isaq Marqa and senior SSC officials.

## Computer expo attracted 20,000 visitors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Twenty thousand people visited last week's computer system exhibition at the Amman International Expo Center near the University of Jordan, exhibition organisers said.

According to Jordan Computer Society President Faez Qudsi, 28 computer companies exhibited equipment worth JD 1 million during the exhibition, which lasted four days and ended Tuesday.

Exhibition visitors, through a questionnaire, voted Ideal Systems Company (Apple) as the best exhibitors, followed by Jordan Computer Centre (Sakin) and Mantaq for Computer Systems and Teaching Aids.

According to Mr. Qudsi, the show cost the 28 exhibitors, JD 100,000. He said that during the exhibition, 40 lectures on various computer aspects were delivered.

The society last Tuesday held a reception party to mark the end of the exhibition. The exhibition was opened last Saturday by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abu Ragheb.

## Information minister meets archbishop

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Saturday received Syriac Archbishop Donald Robinson. The two discussed the humanitarian role the archbishop's office is carrying out as part of its activities in the Middle East Council of Churches, especially in assisting refugees in the Middle East region. The meeting was attended by the Australian ambassador to Jordan.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Government offices to close for King's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will remain closed on Thursday on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, according to a communique issued Saturday by Prime Minister Taher Masri.

#### Syrian educational delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A Syrian educational delegation arrived in Amman Saturday on a five-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Education. The Syrian delegation will hold talks with officials from the ministry on the way to promote and bolster cooperation between Jordan and Syria in educational fields.

#### 38,109 more expatriates return

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of Jordanian expatriates who returned from Kuwait since the beginning of last August until Nov. 8 reached 38,109, according to sources at the Interior Ministry's Returns Welfare Committee. The sources said that the committee had supplied the names of needy returnees to local voluntary societies which expressed readiness to offer assistance to them while others were referred to the Ministry of Social Development's Health Insurance Department to provide them with health services free of charge.

## Specialised teams begin studying government posts so as to overhaul Jordan's civil service system

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of an overall plan to overhaul the Jordanian civil service system, specialised teams from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Saturday embarked on visits to government departments and ministries in preparation for measures designed to upgrade senior civil servant posts and improve performance.

The teams will be directing their attention first to the employees of the senior posts, classified as first category employees, a process which will continue until the end of next month before they will turn their attention to the other categories, according to a CSC spokesman.

Information to be collected by the teams is required to prepare job descriptions and responsibilities for each civil servant to help decision-makers draw up pro-

grammes and plans for future work and expansion, the CSC spokesman said.

The CSC is a government controlled agency which receives and processes applications for work in government offices. The IPA is an institute where government employees are given training to raise the standard of their efficiency.

IPA Director General Abdulrahman Ulayyan told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the IPA and CSC are currently preparing the job descriptions of nearly 200 posts classified in the first category. The teams' work is part of Jordan's drive to improve its civil service system to meet the requirements of social and economic development, the CSC official said.

In October 1989, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement with Jordan to provide the country with technical assistance worth \$750,000 in the form of experts and equipment to help it carry out training courses and to provide experts to help the Kingdom in overhauling its civil service system.

A statement had said that the plan envisages simplifying procedures at government departments and reducing to a minimum the level of routine work required as well as preparing training programmes for civil servants.

According to that statement, the government would provide \$430,000 worth of in-kind assistance and facilities in the course of implementing the plan, which will be carried out by the CSC and the IPA.

Mr. Ulayyan told Petra that the programme will be implemented in three years.

Mr. Masri also referred to the

## Masri pledges government's support in monitoring corruption and mismanagement

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is determined to fight corruption in government departments and public and private organisations and is in the process of creating a special unit to carry out administrative inspection to help control civil service work, Prime Minister Taher Masri announced Saturday.

Among the numerous issues facing Jordan at present is collection of state funds and it is the duty of the Audit Bureau to see to it that such funds are collected, prime minister said during a visit to the Audit Bureau.

Mr. Masri spoke after hearing from Audit Bureau Chief Adel Al Qudah that more than JD456 million are still due on government departments and municipal and village councils that have not been collected from the public over the past several years.

Mr. Masri, who met the Bureau Staff to learn about their various responsibilities, emphasised the importance of the bureau's activities and tasks. We said that the government was ready to provide the bureau with all facilities to help it develop and modernise its methods and enlist local and foreign expertise in order to protect public funds and prevent rampant corruption and negligence of public service.

The Audit Bureau is an independent government department enjoying immunity and performing its tasks with integrity and a deep sense of responsibility, Mr. Masri said. Therefore, it requires every assistance and cooperation from all government ministries so that it can carry out its duty, he added.

Bureau teams, he said, should translate the independence and authority of their department into courageous action in controlling financial activities in various government departments.

Mr. Masri urged various government departments not to ignore the Audit Bureau's reports and said that the government will create a special unit to help maintain control over administrative and financial operations in government offices.

The Audit Bureau hopes that the government would re-examine its laws and regulations with a view to introducing amendments that would help it cope with new developments and additional tasks, Mr. Qudah said.

According to Mr. Qudah, the Audit Bureau faces numerous difficulties and is seeking to conduct internal administrative changes to help it cope with its tasks.

According to the bureau's 1990 report, numerous government departments have committed violations of regulations concerning financial spending. The bureau, he said, has issued many queries to these departments but has received favourable responses from only 33 per cent of them. He said some of these departments have not yet clarified queries about their financial activities for the past six years.

The Audit Bureau, which has been in existence for 40 years, has not had sufficient time to maintain full control over the financial operations of all government agencies and public organisations, Mr. Qudah said.



Prime Minister Taher Masri and Audit Bureau Chief Adel Al Qudah Saturday address workers at

the Audit Bureau. The prime minister pledged to fight corruption in government (Petra photo).

"Our aim will not be just to point out the violators of the law, but rather to improve performance in government offices," Mr. Qudah said.

He added that the bureau, backed by the full authority of the government, would never let lenient in its mission of collecting public funds and saving state funds.

According to the bureau's 1990 report, numerous government departments have committed violations of regulations concerning financial spending. The bureau, he said, has issued many queries to these departments but has received favourable responses from only 33 per cent of them. He said some of these departments have not yet clarified queries about their financial activities for the past six years.

We consider our task as complementary to those of government departments and we seek to put things right and prevent repeated violations of financial regulations," he said. "We seek to collect public funds and prevent manipulation or negligence."

According to 1990 report, a total of JD447,617,250 are still due government departments that have not been collected from the public. He said that municipalities have still to collect JD3,306,333 and the Amman Municipality will have to collect JD3,221,250.

In order to help collect the sums which are overdue to the government, Mr. Qudah said, new methods and techniques should be adopted, fines must be imposed and strict measures must be introduced so that state funds can be duly collected from the public. Mr. Qudah noted that the 1990 report shows a JD2,135,629 in savings made available through auditing various financial activities.

The Audit Bureau, which came into being in 1952, is authorised to control accounts of various government ministries and public organisations on well as municipal and village councils and to monitor their spending and collecting of dues.

## Birthday card designing competition organised to raise funds for village

By Maha Addasi

*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — To celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the Marriott Hotel, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has set up a competition for all children under the age of 12 to design a birthday card for the occasion.

With each card submitted, a minimum amount of 300 fils will be paid as an entry fee and all proceeds will go to the SOS Children's Village Association in Jordan, which accommodates orphaned children.

The role of the Ministry of Education was to inform all children of this event," said Lina Mouasher, sales manager at the Marriott Hotel and an organiser of the event. "We wanted to make sure that all children under 12, from private and public schools, will participate in celebrating the birthday of the big father. And so that we do not restrain the children's imagination, we did not put a limit on the card size."

According to Ms. Mouasher, the role of the Ministry of Education was to inform all children of this event," said Lina Mouasher, sales manager at the Marriott Hotel and an organiser of the event. "We wanted to make sure that all children under 12, from private and public schools, will participate in celebrating the birthday of the big father. And so that we do not restrain the children's imagination, we did not put a limit on the card size."

With each card submitted,

three prize-winning cards will be selected and all the cards entered in this competition will be put on display in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel by Nov. 13, making Nov. 12 the last day for submitting cards. In an effort to surprise the children, competition organisers are keeping the prizes secret.

The schools are divided into directories, with each directory having a set date for the collection of cards from the headmasters of schools in the area between Nov. 10 and Nov. 12," Ms. Mouasher said.

"But it is also possible to submit cards directly to the Marriott Hotel by Nov. 12."

The big celebration, however, will be on Nov. 14 when the entire parking lot of the Marriott Hotel will be turned into a children's fun fair and to which the children from the SOS villages will be invited.

There will be three fun-makers or entertainers who will set up educational games for minimal fees in which children could participate in between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.,

and coming into close contacts with other members of the family or guests at home, relatives, friends at school or at home in addition to the shortage of clean water in the summer have all contributed to this dangerous phenomenon.

Although the country lacks proper surveys and statistics about scabies and lice, any visitor to a school congested with children can easily spot children infested by scabies or lice in their hair, said Zubeir Zakaria, director of the ministry's School Affairs Department.

According to Ms. Kopyt, director of the SOS Children's Village in Aqaba started operating in Aug. 1991 and already accommodates nine children, but its official opening will take place under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor in the Spring of 1992," Ms. Kopyt said, adding that the village in Aqaba is an extension of the SOS Village in Amman.

The Aqaba village is a special development project for the south of Jordan and will give services to orphaned children in the southern area. The village has a potential capacity of 72 children," Ms. Kopyt said.

## Officials report sharp increase in children with lice and scabies

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of children with lice-infested hair and scabies is increasing among school children and the level of infections has now exceeded the dangerous red line in some areas, according to a senior official at the Ministry of Education.

Although the country lacks proper surveys and statistics about scabies and lice, any visitor to a school congested with children can easily spot children infested by scabies or lice in their hair. And although the number does not exceed 4 per cent in the worst situations, urgent measures need to be taken before the phenomenon can reach dangerous proportions, Mr. Zakaria said. He said that expatriates returning to Jordan had spent some time under very traumatic conditions in Kuwait and in the Gulf, during the war and in the aftermath, a situation which breeds diseases.

The Health Ministry said lice normally invade the hair on the head, especially as the victim neglects washing with soap and water. Normally, such phenomena is observed among children who neglect hygiene and old and neglected persons who also infect others through close contact and the use of each other's clothes, a Health Ministry official said.

In some cases, the official said, the scalp is infected and inflammation results, requiring immediate treatment. The Health Ministry has a special unit for school health affairs and teams of

doctors regularly conduct examinations on children to ensure they enjoy good health, said the official. These teams extend their work through the various towns and villages.

He said that 16 teams are appointed to conduct dentistry inspection and 16 teams conduct medical examinations at schools in various towns and villages on a regular basis.

He said that children of the first four elementary schools are subject to full medical examinations and instructions on personal hygiene are always provided to the children. Furthermore, the official said, school canteens are strictly monitored by ministry officials.

The ministry official said that students are urged to take care of personal cleanliness and wash with water and soap frequently to prevent any infection.



## THE ARAB POTASH COMPANY LIMITED I.F.B. No. 30-4857-39-516 (FLOATING TRACKED HARVESTERS)

The Arab Potash Company announces the floating of this tender for the supply of two (2) carnallite harvesters, which will collect the carnallite from the company solar pans system in Safi/Jordan.

The manufacturing companies willing to participate are invited to obtain the tender documents at a non-refundable price of (150 J.D.) from the company offices in Shmeisani-Amman before the closing date, the noon of Saturday 11/01/1992.

Three (3) copies of each bid are required and each copy to be provided in two (2) separate envelopes, one for the technical bid and the other for the commercial bid.

A.Y. Ensour  
Managing Director

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Items of our Heritage" by Hana Sadeq Burdou at Baladna Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handmade items at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting scenes from Aqaba and Jordan by Jordanian artist Kamal Shalabi Yassein at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Samira Abdal Wahab at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in French, entitled "Rimbau on Marques" by Pascal Torrin at the French Cultural Centre — 6 p.m.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة صدرت في الأردن في 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Time for new thinking

MOHAMMAD Arkoun, an Algerian scholar, yesterday evening was telling a packed hall at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation that the Arab-Muslim innovative thinking had come to a halt 10 centuries ago. He said that if a real Arab-Muslim renaissance were to be achieved they had to re-examine their modes of thinking, their history. He urged that religious scripts, whether Jewish, Christian or Muslim, be re-read under the lens of new scientific methods of research.

Dr. Arkoun, together with an increasing number of Arab and Muslim scholars, have been very critical of today's Arab thought. They contend that Arab thinking has been straightjacketed for a long time.

Those scholars urge their students and readers and audiences to venture into what Dr. Arkoun termed last night as the "unthinkable." There are areas in the human quest for knowledge that have so far been anathema to Arab-Muslim thinking.

Judging from the huge turnout at Dr. Arkoun's lecture yesterday one is inclined to believe that at long last there is a body of Arab and Muslim intellectuals who are willing to venture into areas of the unknown and the unthinkable. It is regrettable, however, that very few of those revolutionary scholars teach at Arab universities and other institutions of learning. Dr. Arkoun himself teaches Islamic studies at the Sorbone. What is more regrettable though is the fact that no Arab university seems to be encouraging its students to think differently and to delve into genuine questioning of where we stand today and where we are heading, whether in religion, sciences, the arts and politics.

What is most urgently needed is either a leap or a diversion in our ways and modes of thinking. Because the way many of us think collectively nowadays is outmoded, outdated and at best mediocre. Furthermore, the way our institutions of learning function is often only a poor imitation of Western institutions. Unless our institutions turn into research centres and media for new thinking we will continue to move on the margin of modernity, a phenomenon that will soon leave us very much behind. We certainly lend credence to the thought that our universities here in Jordan might want to take the initiative and start the trend.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The initial success of the Palestinian delegation or the Arab delegations at the Madrid conference should not take their minds off the essential task of working hard and preparing for the next stage of the peace conference, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. What is needed, the paper said, is coordination among the Arab parties themselves and strenuous efforts to reach a formula that can be presented as a unified stand in the next stage. The Arabs are in dire need for unity and stand and for pressing hard for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, therefore, everything possible should be done to reach concerted stands as soon as possible and before the negotiations can start, the paper said. It said that the whole conference should constitute one package which entails negotiations over procedures to implement U.N. resolutions and ensure the exchange of land for peace. There must not be any room for the common Israeli enemy to achieve normalisation of relations with anyone of the parties without total consensus from all parties and it must be understood by all that nothing can be achieved from the multilateral negotiations if bilateral talks achieve no success, the paper added. To make both talks successful, said the paper, the Arab side should insist first that all U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy be implemented in full. The paper urged the Arab parties to persist in efforts designed to ensure the restoration of the full rights of the Palestinian people.

Israel's persisting and barbaric attacks on southern Lebanon's refugee camps and Lebanese villages represent an outright attempt to sabotage the Middle East peace negotiations, said Al Dostour daily Saturday. It said that Israel is one of those evil elements in the region trying to undermine the peace process because it does not want to give back land it has occupied since 1967 and does not want peace with the Arabs. To show their defiance of the peace conference Israeli settlers have just finished a new Jewish settlement on the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and are trying to set up settlements near Jenin and other parts of the West Bank, the paper said. It said that the Israeli military are coupling such measures with an escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinian people so as to provoke the Palestinians into abandoning their quest for peace. The paper said that the onslaught on peace coincided with the blast at the American University of Beirut which was obviously carried out by terrorists opposed to peace. It said that the terrorists and the Israeli agents are now active in the region not only to provoke the Arabs but also to anger the Americans and to force them to abandon their positive trend towards finding a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

### Ministry of Finance embarks on economic adjustment

THE Ministry of Finance announced last week a comprehensive package of reforms regarding customs duty on imports and consumption or excise tax on domestic production. The changes were in both directions. In general, customs duties on imports of 205 commodities were lowered, while the rates of consumption tax on local industrial production were raised thus pushing local producers to improve their competitiveness.

When the new measures were revealed to the press, they had already been put into effect, one day earlier. This is a normal precaution taken against possible exploitation of advanced knowledge by same dealers who may be able to learn about the alternatives ahead of others.

This reform should not be seen as an isolated measure. Most likely, it is the first part of the new economic adjustment programme which the government has just adopted and conveyed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation in a draft letter of intent, which was approved by the Ministerial Economic Council.

The main objective of this first step was to secure more resources to the budget. The government is almost committed to raise the salaries and wages in the public sector by some JD 45 million in 1992. At the same time, the government has under-

taken to reduce the deficit of the budget, before grants and loans, by JD 35 million.

This means that the government will be obliged to look for more revenue sources or less expenditure items in the range of JD 80 million during 1992.

The deficit in the draft budget of 1992 is expected to top JD 45 million before foreign grants, or JD 387 million after the grants.

This is a huge deficit which is not acceptable. Funds must be secured one way or another to cover the gap. The means may not be other than foreign borrowing which is not available nor desirable, or internal borrowing from the Central Bank which may ignite domestic inflation and rock the present comfortable stability of the dinar exchange rate which was sustained for 24 months.

The only remaining sources to cover the fiscal deficit is to try to capitalise and reschedule interest due to foreign creditors, amounting to JD 212 million in 1992, and to obtain fresh financing from the IMF, the World Bank, and other foreign countries which used to support the Jordanian treasury, such as Japan, America and the European countries, especially Germany.

However, the capitalisation of interest and rescheduling of

interest and principal, and the access to fresh facilities are not possible unless Jordan adopts a credible economic adjustment programme, approved by the IMF. Creditors showed their willingness to reschedule their debts, and donating countries showed their willingness to extend support to the Jordanian budget, but only if Jordan demonstrated that such steps will help in the implementation of a serious adjustment process which will eventually help Jordan achieve a higher degree of financial self-sufficiency. No one is ready to forego some of our financial obligations or to extend more aid to us simply to postpone the point of crisis, or to enable us to step up our imports, increase our consumption and improve the quality of our lives.

Finally, one has to appreciate the government's attempt to safeguard the lower-income groups of the population to the extent possible. It has reduced taxes on food items, and on supplies particularly needed by children and students, while increasing the taxes on more luxurious commodities that are more likely to be bought and consumed by better off groups. This was a step towards redistribution of income in the right social direction. It shows that the burden of the coming sacrifices will fall on middle and high classes.

## A new, clear voice for Palestinians

By Carly Murphy

MADRID — The phalanx of Spanish Civil Guards mowed through the mass of television cameras and reporters like a high-speed earthmover. In their midst, barely tall enough to be seen, a black-haired woman struggled to keep up with her bodyguards' rapid pace. Smiling slightly, she wore the look of someone who realised that, for the moment, events were beyond her control.

But not for long. As soon as Hanan Mikhail Ashrawi reached the podium for yet another press conference, she was back in command. A teacher by profession, a literary scholar by choice, a politician by nature, Mrs. Ashrawi liked nothing better than an opportunity to present what is her passion by birth — the Palestinian case.

As spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Middle East peace conference, Mrs. Ashrawi, 45, argued the Palestinian case with composure, conciseness and clarity. She left many of the outworn clichés and taboos surrounding this conflict cut to ribbons.

Take, for example, the man

who rose at a press conference last Friday to confront her. A representative of an American Christian broadcasting outlet, he said he "didn't understand" how Mrs. Ashrawi could ask Israel "to exchange land for peace," because "when Judea and Samaria were in the hands of the Arab

World, Israel was attacked three times."

"First of all, I find your reference to 'Judea and Samaria' a statement of extreme bias, and rather offensive," Mrs. Ashrawi replied, homing in on his use of the Biblical names for the occupied West Bank. "I am a Palestinian Christian, and I know what Christianity is. I am a descendant of the first Christians in the world, and Jesus Christ was born in my country, in my land Bethlehem is a Palestinian town. So I will not accept this one-upmanship on Christianity. Nobody has the monopoly."

She then asked, "Are there any serious questions?"

From start to finish, Mrs. Ashrawi's voice did not waver a decibel, up or down, from its customary level tone. Even an Israeli spokesman, Yossi Olmert, gave her performance grudging respect: "She's definitely impressive. She appears well on television."

If her people were looking for a "new image" at the conference, Mrs. Ashrawi, more than anyone else, helped give it to them.

She is a woman who got her master's degree in textual criticism of Renaissance literature and then spent three years at the University of Virginia, earning a PhD in medieval literature.

But as a former dean of Birzeit University in the West Bank, Mrs. Ashrawi has dodged bullets on campus and seen four of her students killed in clashes with

why people react positively to what I say, because I'm genuine. And I don't mince words, and I don't play games. I really like to answer questions, I don't like to manipulate."

She also attributed her status to a "historical coincidence — where ability coincided with need."

Her forte, she said, is being able "to articulate analyse and get through to others."

"It's something I think you develop as a teacher," she said. "You're always trying to reach people, you're always trying to get them to not just believe you, but to understand as well, to understand before they believe. To convince."

Mrs. Ashrawi was born in the West Bank town of Ramallah, the youngest of five daughters. Her father, a prominent politician, was a physician in the Palestinian army set up when Britain was the colonial power in her country between the two world wars.

She lives there with her husband, Emile, a photographer, artist and filmmaker, and their two daughters, Zeina and Amal, and while she says she is not a pacifist like her husband, she believes that "military options don't solve anything."

Despite what others say, she counts impatience as "a very apparent fault in me."

"I cannot separate language from substance," she said. "I don't like slogans. I don't like the sort of slick professional PR attitude, and I think that's probably

"And I'm impatient with ignorance, willful ignorance, not people who genuinely want to know. I'm very patient with them, because I'm a teacher. That's my job. But willful ignorance, it bothers me, and I'm very blunt, which bothers many people."

Her emergence onto the international stage in Madrid had its roots in her student years in Beirut. At the American University in the late 1960s, Mrs. Ashrawi was a spokeswoman for the General Union of Palestinian Students. In 1969, she was the only woman in the union's delegation from Lebanon at the international conference in Amman, Jordan, where she first met Yasser Arafat.

In the 1980s, Mrs. Ashrawi was occasionally in the news, spearheading protests against the Israeli Army operations on the Birzeit campus. In one incident, she arrived on the scene after a student had been shot and helped take him to the hospital. Her appearance on an ABC News "Town Meeting" was the first time her voice reached an international audience.

So, when Secretary of State James Baker began his Middle East diplomatic shuttling eight months ago, Mrs. Ashrawi was a logic choice to be among the West Bank Palestinian leaders designated to meet with him. It was Mrs. Ashrawi, a Palestinian journalist, who introduced the practice of taking minutes at these meetings. This was

an innovation for Palestinian politics, he said, for up until then Palestinian spokesmen "would go back to their hotel rooms and write the minutes in a way that made them look good."

When the Israelis refused to accept Mrs. Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini as part of the official Palestinian delegation to the peace conference because of their known sympathies for the PLO, the Americans agreed to let them come as part of an "advisory" team to the official delegation. In order not to provoke the Israelis, Mrs. Ashrawi deflects questions on her official status within the PLO, which is outlawed in Israel and its occupied territories.

"I can't tell you that," she said, laughing. "I always tell the press that the question I don't answer for the interrogator, I don't answer for the press."

Mrs. Ashrawi said she had been "too busy" to be nervous or worries about the threats made by extremists against those Palestinians attending the peace conference. Besides, she said, "you have to take risks. We have taken many risks. And this peace process is actually risk-taking."

"My father told us when we were young that you have to be daring, when you have right on your side," she said. "And you know, sort of being indecisive and not taking decisions and running away from challenges — it's a luxury we don't have." — Washington Post.

## Israelis, pinching themselves, see a 'Begin-isation'

By Abraham Rabinovich

JERUSALEM — In the days since the Madrid conference opened, Israelis have found themselves flirting with an outrageous notion — that a freak historical wind has swept them up and deposited them somewhere they never expected to be: on a road leading to peace.

For people accustomed to swimming on stormy seas, it is a thought almost embarrassing in its naivete. But it was difficult to shake off the message implicit in the Madrid peace conference that the world's supersheriff was determined to force the nations of the Middle East, kicking and screaming, to make peace.

A sense of unreality had pervaded Israeli attitude toward the peace talks even before they opened. The sight of an Israeli delegation headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, sitting opposite a Palestinian delegation added to this dreamlike quality, and the presence of Lebanese, Jordanian and Syrian delegations reinfirmed it.

What turned dream into startling reality was Mr. Shamir's speech. For the first time in his public career, he seemed to leave open the possibility of territorial concessions, without which Middle East peace must remain a mirage.

The implication was that if there were a basic change in the Arab attitude, then Israel would be prepared to make territorial concessions. And the implication was clear enough for sceptical members of Israel's left to hail Mr. Shamir's speech warmly.

Some Arabs present, notably the Syrians, chose to interpret this as a reaffirmation by Mr. Shamir of his opposition to territorial concessions. But more significant than what Mr. Shamir said was what he did not say. He had not, in this critical forum, restated his long-standing opposition to the territories-for-peace



formula.

The prime minister was asking the Arabs first to show that they truly accepted Israel's existence. "Demonstrate your readiness to accept Israel as a permanent entity in the region. Let the people hear you speak in the language of reconciliation, coexistence and peace with Israel."

Mr. Shamir said that Mr. Weizman would find it difficult to retreat from his new path, even if he wanted to. "Once you enter a process like this, it's very difficult to get out," he said.

There are indications, however, that Mr. Shamir may have crossed some political Rubicon of his own and that he might not want to get out.

"He seems to be enjoying the role of peacemaker," said a member of the Israeli delegation in Madrid. Mr. Shamir had opposed the peace agreement with Egypt, and

voted against Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, fought against the return of the tiny Taba enclave to Egypt and consistently rejected any notion of territorial concessions on the West Bank, Gaza or Golan Heights.

In Madrid, however, the prime minister spoke of the historic nature of the peace conference and appeared exceptionally ebullient when he met with Israeli reporters.

On the eve of the last Yom Kippur, at a time when American pressure on Israel to join the peace process had forced Mr. Shamir into this final corner, the 76-year-old prime minister attended services at Jerusalem's great synagogue. Sitting in the seat closest to the Torah ark reserved for distinguished guests, he seemed withdrawn into his thoughts. His face was grave.

An observer watching him felt that the prime minister was not weighing his own soul as cantor and choir sang but the future of the nation. Mr. Shamir's intensive reassessment of political realities culminated last month when he decided that he and his foreign minister would go to Madrid to set out the Israeli road map.

Mr. Shamir's metamorphosis — if that is what it is — is conditioned on a similar metamorphosis occurring on the Arab side, which would have to demonstrate that it is willing to accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state in the midst of the Arab World.

It is a fantastic proposition but, as Mr. Shamir has demonstrated, fantasies may be possible in the new world order, even in the Middle East — International Herald Tribune.

Mr. Rabinovich is a feature writer for the Jerusalem Post. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## Palestinian triumph

By Kirk T. Albrecht

"A land without a people, and a people without a land." That is how Palestine and the Palestinians have been described for the last 43 years, since the United Nations created the modern state of Israel in 1948.

But have perceptions changed in the last two weeks, following the opening of the historic Middle East peace conference? If the world, and particularly the Western press is to be believed, then certainly the Palestinians have finally arrived on the world agenda.

The myth of the Palestinians in the West for years has been that of the terrorist. In some minds, the two became synonymous. Nightly news flashed images of kufiyeh-wrapped youths hurling stones at Israeli soldiers, fleeing into endless backalleys in towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They remained nameless, faceless, without an identity before much of the world. As an unknown quantity, and linked with the PLO, they brought fear to those who saw them through the two dimensions of the camera.

All the while they themselves claimed to have been a people inhabiting the land of Palestine, for thousands of years, part of the larger

## Masri: Washington best for multilaterals

(Continued from page 1)

on the fate of the settlements which are of concern to Jordan.

The settlements, he added, should take priority for all sides.

Asked whether Amman presented a timetable for Israel's withdrawal, he said Israel occupies some 400 square kilometres of Jordanian territory in the north and in Wadi Araba but negotiations over this territory will be linked with progress in the Israeli-Palestinian talks and talks

its task he will not hesitate on making this step.

Asked whether Jordan would favour the creation of a confederation grouping Israel, Palestine and Jordan similar to the Swiss confederation, Mr. Masri said that for Jordan the priority is to ensure Israel's return of all lands to their lawful owners and the right of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Any other ideas can be discussed after achieving the first goals, he said.

## Water — the rare Mideast commodity

(Continued from page 1)

may take action to precipitate a crisis to change the status quo," Prof Naff asserted. "The water war is only a scenario but unless the problem is solved there is definitely going to be a great deal of domestic dislocation and destabilisation because thirsty people will not sit still for the negotiations to find a solution."

So if Israel has overwhelming military capability and controls the sources feeding the Jordan River, why should it relinquish its hold in what has been described as a "zero-sum security issue?"

Israel, in the most advantageous position, "gets whatever water comes from the occupied Golan Heights and the occupation gives it an upper riparian position; it uses all

the consumable water of the Jordan River basin, takes 100 mcm/year of water out of the Yarmouk River, sits on the waters of the Litani and Awali rivers and is in a position to take that water if the situation becomes critical," according to university of Michigan Professor John Kolars. "So what incentives would Israel need to change the status quo?"

The incentives is what comes with peace and the opportunities it offers, said Prof. Naff, but the U.S. will have to use its political and economic influence with the principal users of the Jordan basin to break deadlocks expected in the talks and encourage positive action, especially with Israel.

Experts say that peace agreements would guarantee

the stability of water supplies and allow the countries to organise, plan and equitably apportion the water on a basin-wide basis.

"Peace gives the opportunity to develop economic cooperation that benefits everyone; this would attract a great deal of international support and investment to make this possible," said Prof. Kolars.

But analysts agree that short of solving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, basinwide cooperative agreements for sharing the basin's water are unlikely. They also warn that a political solution is not likely to occur in time to stave off a major water driven crisis between states or, more likely, domestically.

## American politicians apologise for shortcomings

By Michael Posner  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — In a sudden outbreak of humility in the U.S. Senate, some prominent politicians have confessed their shortcomings to their voters and promised to mend their ways.

Senator Edward Kennedy, a Democrat, conceded in a speech in his home state of Massachusetts last month that he had personal faults. He did not specify them but highly publicised reports have mentioned womanshining and drinking.

Assistant Republican Senate leader Alan Simpson admitted being too "cocky" and told his Wyoming voters he would handle his personality differently. Howard Metzenbaum, another Democrat, apologised in an Ohio newspaper for harsh criticism of a Senate witness with an unproven charge the man had sexually harassed a woman.

How unusual were these

admissions?

"They're worried," said Washington political scientist Stephen Hess.

"Being a senator means you never had to say you're sorry."

He said the senators must have been reading opinion polls or talking to aides who told them they could be in trouble with the electorate.

Senate historian Don Ritchie agreed it is rare for a senator to apologise for personal traits. But that's what each did.

Appearing at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government named after his late brother, Mr. Kennedy said:

"I recognise my own shortcomings, the faults in the conduct of my private life. I realise that I alone am responsible for them, and I am the one who must confront them."

In 1969 he appealed for support from Massachusetts voters after the Chappaquidick tragedy when a young political worker,

Mary Jo Kopechne, drowned in a pond, trapped in a car Mr. Kennedy had been driving after they attended a party.

Mr. Kennedy's admission of personal failings came a week before the start of the trial of his nephew, William Kennedy Smith, charged with raping a woman at the family's oceanfront mansion in Palm Beach, Florida.

Polls show that Mr. Kennedy's usual unshakeable popularity as the "Liberal standardbearer" in Congress, has plunged in Massachusetts since Mr. Smith was charged with rape after a night on the town with his uncle and Kennedy's son Patrick last March 30.

The senator is expected to be a star witness at the trial.

Due to widespread reports of his personal life, many citizens raised eyebrows at the appropriateness of his sitting on the Senate panel which questioned people's morals at Clarence Thomas's Supreme Court nomination hearings last month, even though

Mr. Kennedy is respected as a hard-working senator.

All three senators are members of the Judiciary Committee, which attracted millions of television viewers watching law Professor Anita Hill accusing Mr. Thomas of sexually harassing her in the 1990s.

Opinion polls showed those spectacular sessions dropped the already low esteem in which the people regard Congress, even though they routinely reelect individual senators and members of the House of Representatives.

The much-criticised televised Senate hearings came shortly after recent revelations that dozens of House members bounced checks at a private house bank, failed to pay restaurant bills and got parking violations fixed with police.

"It was political expediency," Jack Gargan, who heads a grassroots group committed to defeating congressional incumbents, said.

bents, said of the senators' apologies. "They know the heat is on."

An NBC television poll showed more people lost respect for both Senate Republicans and Democrats as a result of the hearings. A Gallup poll showed people had more unfavourable than favourable views of Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Metzenbaum.

Mr. Simpson fared better. Seventeen per cent of those polled felt unfavourable towards him.

"Nevertheless, Mr. Simpson apologised for his attacks on Mr. Hill.

"I have been riding high, a bit too cocky, arrogant, yeah, too smart by half sometimes," he said.

Mr. Metzenbaum also regretted harshly attacking John Doggett, a Thomas defender at the hearings, by making an unsworn allegation that Mr. Doggett had sexually harassed a female worker.

## Miyazawa striking contrast to predecessor

TOKYO (AP) — Fluent in English and a master of insider politics, Kiichi Miyazawa is a striking contrast to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, the man he has been chosen to replace.

Mr. Miyazawa, elected president of the governing Liberal Democratic Party on Sunday and scheduled for approval by parliament as prime minister next week, is known for his wide government experience and intellectual prowess.

Mr. Kaifu, by comparison, was little known when party leaders chose him as a temporary figurehead leader after the Recruit influence-buying scandal in 1989 that cost Mr. Miyazawa his post as finance minister.

The 72-year-old Miyazawa has

served in most key cabinet posts and enjoys a reputation as an expert policy-maker with a good grasp of economics. He has garnered laurels from a career spent in international conferences and diplomatic missions.

His resume resembles that of the man who will be one of his most important counterparts — U.S. President George Bush, a former ambassador to the United Nations, envoy to Peking, CIA director and vice president.

Also in contrast to Mr. Kaifu, Mr. Miyazawa has indicated that he intends to be a formidable negotiating partner for U.S. leaders in trade talks.

At a news conference earlier this month, Mr. Miyazawa warned against protectionist sentiment in the U.S. Congress and said Japan had done almost all it could to reduce its gaping trade surplus with the United States.

But he also called for strengthening the U.S.-Japan partnership. An opportunity to do just that will come late next month when Mr. Bush visits Tokyo.

"We should try to contemplate how we can jointly make a contribution in the international community," Mr. Miyazawa said.

"My hope is that both leaders could declare something that could be named the 'Tokyo declaration.'

In nearly 50 years of statesmanship, Mr. Miyazawa has developed close personal links with the West. They include longstanding acquaintances with Mr. Bush, Secretary of State James Baker and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. His daughter, Keiko, is married to an American diplomat.

During the American occupation, when U.S. forces wielded tremendous influence in Japanese politics.

As finance minister in the late 1980s, Mr. Miyazawa favoured heavy public spending, tax cuts and lower interest rates.

He also has called for Japan to make greater efforts to help developing nations, saying the nation should be more "philanthropic-minded."

An avid supporter of the nation's three "non-nuclear principles" — neither possessing, manufacturing nor introducing nuclear arms — Mr. Miyazawa has said Japan should take more initiative in promoting global nuclear arms reduction.

Mr. Miyazawa was born in Fukuyama near Hiroshima on Oct. 8, 1919, and graduated from Tokyo University, the nation's premier school. As a member of a wealthy family and one of the privileged few to pass the diplomatic service examination, he entered the Finance Ministry in 1942 and served there through World War II.

Indeed, some analysts think

Mr. Miyazawa's aloofness from the wheeling and dealing of party politics is what kept him out of the prime minister's chair for so long.

"I am the son of a congressman and the grandson of another. I know the backstage, the kitchen, of politics. I was determined not to enter it — but was drawn into it reluctantly," he said in a 1977 magazine interview.

He was drawn in too deeply during the recruit scandal, when he was one of a group senior government leaders forced to resign.

Unlike the greener Kaifu, many of whose policy initiatives failed, Mr. Miyazawa also benefits from numerous contacts in

the bureaucracy, a requisite for any would-be mover and shaker in Japanese politics.

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## Doctors think Johnson has 5-14 years

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Magic Johnson faced cameras and told the world he was infected by the AIDS virus. Now he confronts uncertainty.

The Los Angeles Lakers superstar "could live 12 or 14 years, God willing. If he were very unlucky, then... five or six years," said Dr. Michael Gottlieb, the doctor who in 1981 wrote the first report on the disease now called AIDS.

"It's a tough road ahead for anybody with this virus," Dr. Gottlieb said Friday. "It's a holding action for Magic Johnson, and the world will be watching."

Johnson announced Thursday that he has become infected by the AIDS virus but hasn't yet developed any symptoms of the disease or started taking medications for it.

Infection with the AIDS virus is widely viewed as a death sentence, although some doctors contend it is becoming a manageable, chronic disease in which symptoms and ultimate death can be delayed for years as better drugs become available.

"That's malarkey. It's not a manageable disease now or in the foreseeable future," said Writer Larry Kramer, the AIDS-infected founder of Act-Up, the militant AIDS coalition to unleash power.

"Magic Johnson is going to die and the 40 million people (worldwide) who are predicted to be infected by the year 2000 are going to die. This is a lethal, virulent, exceedingly messy disease," Kramer said Friday by phone from New York.

Dr. Gottlieb, who has treated scores of AIDS patients — including the late actor Rock Hudson — agreed AIDS isn't yet manageable, but expressed optimism that "if we can step up the pace of drug research, there may be something that will save Magic and other people with the

virus."

People infected with the AIDS virus remain free of any symptoms for an average of seven years, and take an average of 10 or 11 years to develop full-blown AIDS, Dr. Gottlieb said.

### Jordan to help Johnson

Michael Jordan said Friday he will join his friend Magic Johnson in helping to educate people about AIDS.

"He said yesterday that he's going to be a spokesman for the HIV virus and try to tell kids that it can happen to anyone," Jordan said at an afternoon news conference. "And as a friend of his and a player in the NBA, I think I'm obligated as much as he is to do the same."

The soft-spoken and subdued, Jordan talked about the the revelation that his friend and NBA rival had tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS. He said Johnson called him on his car phone to tell him the news.

"I'm almost driving off the road because I couldn't handle it as well as he could," the Chicago Bulls superstar said.

"I told him that I loved him and my family's with him and whatever we can do, we're willing to do that."

Johnson told Jordan the best thing he could do would be to help spread the message that AIDS can strike anyone, not just gay men or drug abusers.

"I think this is something that we all should step forward and try to utilize our position as role models to try to solve the problem or make the awareness of the problem even greater," Jordan said. "I think this is an alarm clock for a lot of people."

It was certainly a wake-up call for Jordan, who has been a friend of Magic's for years. The two played hard against each other in

last season's NBA championships, and were scheduled to be teammates on the 1992 U.S. Olympic basketball team. Michael and Magic also kept in touch during the off season, helping each other with their charitable efforts.

"One thing that really bothered me about watching Magic retire yesterday was that he retired under these circumstances," Jordan said. "He didn't get the going away party that he deserved. That was said."

America's sportsmen turned their attention to the somber subject of AIDS Friday as they considered the plight of one of their most famous brethren and wondered: What now?

"If any good can come of it, you have a guy now who's going to be around and is willing to speak to kids and to young people," John Paxon of the Chicago Bulls said. "There won't be anybody better to educate the public for AIDS."

While the sports world continued to express its shock and sadness over Magic Johnson's retirement from pro basketball, many also were moved to join him in the cause.

"My wife, Bridgette, and I are joining Magic and his battle against the HIV virus and educating the American people and the youth about practicing safe sex," Rex Chapman of the Charlotte Hornets said. "Bridgette and I are donating \$50,000 to any HIV virus research fund set up or designated by Magic."

At the same time, other athletes called for uniform AIDS

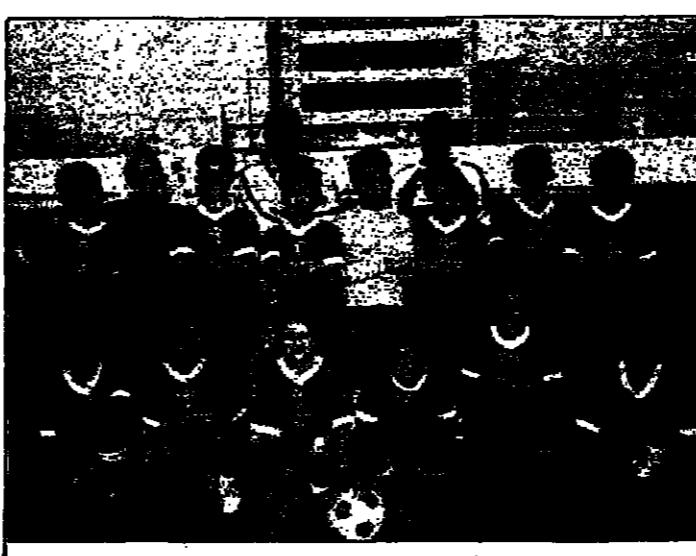
testing, fearing that the exchange of blood on the field of battle had driven the danger level of some sports too high.

"We've tested for drugs. I don't see why we shouldn't be tested for AIDS," Phoenix Cardinals nose tackle Jim Wahler said. "There's so much bloodshed on the football field. It's for your own safety. I don't think it's an invasion of anybody's privacy."

Wahler's teammate, running back Ron Woffley, said: "I'd rather know. I think people should be tested. Let's face it, it's a blood sport. The stuff flies around out there. If a guy tests positive, the rest of the league has a right to know."

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, in a prepared statement, reiterated what he had said last week when it was disclosed that the Philadelphia Eagles were testing for AIDS.

"It's a tough road ahead for



Tramec: team from the Mids division won the Cup Final Friday. The team had earlier won this season's league title.

## AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Juniors soccer semi cap final, Nov. 7, 1991

AL Hikma (1) Vs. Union Bank (0)

Soccer Cup Finals 1991/1992 Nov. 8, 1991

TOTS:

Vita (0) Vs. Marriott (0)

Vita won penalty shoot-out 2-1

JUNIORS:

Al Hikma (1) Vs. UPS (0)

MIDS:

Tramec (1) Vs. Istiklal (1)

Tramec won penalty shoot-out 4-0

SENIORS:

Chilli House (3) Vs. Lois (2)

Score after regular time: 2-2

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** An excellent day for you to think out some new manner in which to place your emotional interests on a more satisfactory basis and to think in terms of getting your life in tune with rightness.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is your day to think and ponder how you can best add to your present assets and to build up a new prosperity for yourself without delay.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you would like to do that does mean extending your personal interests far beyond their present bounds is very good so think big in personal directions.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have a secret wish that requires you keep confidential excepting you can discuss it with an expert who is able to help you make dream come true.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you can do to please friends who have been devoted and loyal is very good now so take the time to show your affection for them.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is your moment to show you are the one who does appreciate the support given you by an official that has enhanced your image before the public.

**VENUS:** (August 22 to September 22) This is that moment for you to show you value the good will of all.

new allies in your life who are able to help you to expand your present interests.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Pay off whatever faces you even though it may seem to be a hardship at the moment since by so doing you clean your desk and get prepared for bigger things.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You are able to come to a new agreement with your associates if you will first listen to what they have to say for their views and opinions.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your day to work hard and to get everything about you in perfect working order and you are also able to get some more money from your personal needs.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) So many amusing interests can now be yours that you would be wise to be open-minded to them and to make some highly effective means by which to have fun.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think out who and why you need to have better conditions beneath your own roof and get a more pleasant and agreeable set of circumstances.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get off to sea and to come to some better awareness of what your close ties have in mind so that you can gain their good will and respect.

## World champion Yamaguchi leads figure skating field

ALBERTVILLE, France (AP) — World champion Kristi Yamaguchi of the United States took the lead in the singles events Friday at the Lalique Trophy Figure Skating Competition, a warmup to the winter Olympics.

Several of the world's top figure skaters are competing at the future Olympic arena in the Lalique trophy competition.

Yamaguchi, who led a 1-2-3 sweep of the women's event for the United States, captured the original portion that started the women's competition. She hit all the elements to a superb flowing version of the waltz "Blue Danube."

Midori Ito of Japan, the 1989 world champion, was second. Ito slightly missed a very difficult jump combination, which put her a notch below the American after the portion that counts for 1/3 of the total mark.

Another American, Nancy Kerrigan, was third. Kerrigan finished their behind Yamaguchi and American champion Tonya Harding at the World Championships in Munich last March. Harding is not entered in Albertville.

In the men's event, Soviet Viacheslav Zagorodnik took the lead over three-time world men's champion Kurt Browning of Canada.

Browning showed the results of

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAH HIRSCH  
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### PLAYING WITH GLASS CARDS

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH ♠ 10 9 7 3

K 9

6 5 3 2

♦ J 10 9

WEST EAST ♠ K Q 8 6 5 4 2 J

3 6 4

5 Void A K Q J 10 8

♦ Q 8 6 2

SOUTH ♠ A K

7 6 Q J 10 8 7 5

9 7 4

♦ A K

The bidding:

East South West North

3 4 5 Pass Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Preemptive bidding is a two-edged sword. It often goads the opponents into overbidding, but it also paints a picture of the defender's bidding style, allowing an astute declarer to take advantage of the distribution. This hand from a rubber-bridge game illustrates both aspects.

South's bid of five hearts is unfortunate. Having already shown a good hand with a long heart suit, he should simply have doubled and collected at least 600 points, and remained a 3-to-1 favorite to win the rubber. North could always raise if his hand was better suited for offense. It seemed that, at five hearts,

declarer must lose three diamond tricks, but excellent card-reading, superb technique and a lucky, if fortunate, opening lead allowed South to prevail.

The opening lead of the king of spades was won in the closed hand, and the opposing distribution was pretty much an open book. East's preempt and West's failure to lead a diamond made it a certainty that West was void in diamonds, so South unearthened a line that would land the contract if trump split evenly and West held the queen of clubs.

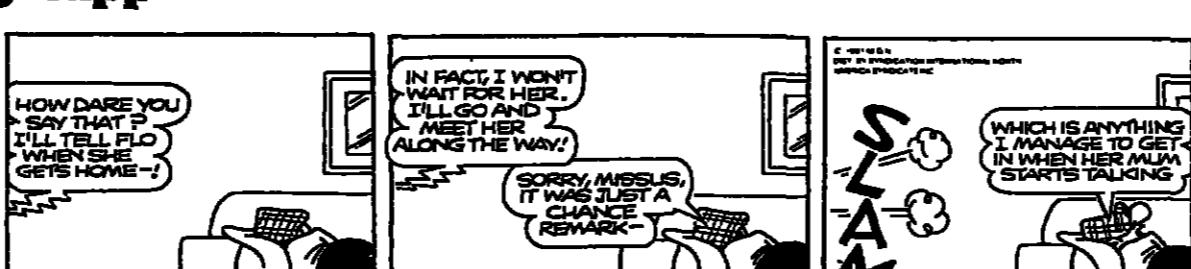
Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ace and king of hearts, and was delighted when both defenders followed. Next came the ten of spades, on which declarer discarded the king of clubs!

West saw that winning the queen of spades would not help the defenders' cause. A spade return would give declarer two tricks in that suit, and queen of clubs and another would give declarer two discards on the jack of clubs and nine of spades (declarer's nine diamonds, which had landed on the queen of clubs). So the declarer allowed the ten of spades to hold, but declarer was ready with a counter. Dummy's jack of clubs came next as declarer discarded a diamond from hand, and the best West could do was win and lead the queen of spades. South discarded another diamond and the next forced black-suit lead delivered the fulfilling trick.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp

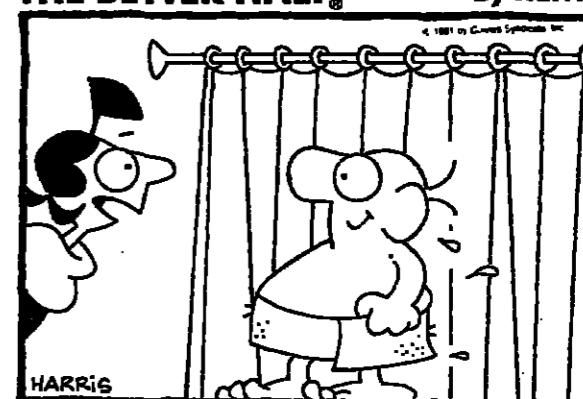


## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**FREVE**

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**STRUY**

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**WHAREK**

© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**MUSCLY**

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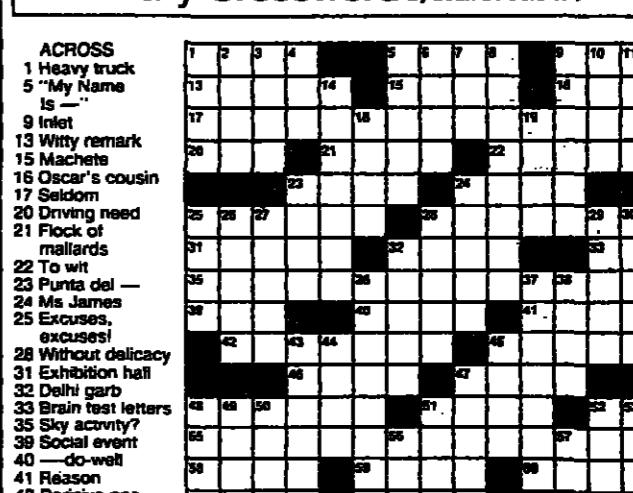
Answer: A "DRASTIC" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: DRAMA EXTOL HYBRID ASSURE

Answer: What do crooks arrange under big trees?—"SHADY" DEALS

## THE Daily Crossword

by Joan D. Berbrich



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## Dior enters Paris Bourse next month

PARIS (R) — Christian Dior will in December become the second French fashion house to be quoted on the Paris Bourse, following in rival Yves Saint Laurent's wake.

A spokesman for Dior's parent company, Societe Financiere Agache, has said shares would probably be introduced onto the market through public sale in early December.

Yves Saint Laurent's share

fotation in July 1989 met such an enthusiastic public response, with the offer heavily oversubscribed, that many Paris fashion houses dreamt of cashing in on their world-famous labels.

But the Gulf crisis depressed share prices and created a climate of financial uncertainty, prompting Dior executives to delay their long-cherished flotation plans until now.

Christian Dior S.A. will be

floated on the Paris cash market, where shares in smaller companies are traded.

The Agache spokesman said Dior would increase its capital by 1.06 billion francs (\$185 million) ahead of the flotation by selling 2.86 million new shares at 370 francs (\$64) each to companies already holding stakes in Christian Dior.

## Vatican forecasts '92 deficit to remain at \$86 m

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican has said its projected budget deficit for 1992 would remain stable at about \$86 million.

A statement released after a meeting of a committee of cardinals who oversee Vatican finances said the Holy See expected income of about \$92 million and expenses of \$178 million, leaving a deficit of \$86 million.

It was the same amount as the 1990 deficit, which was a record, and that of a revised projected 1991 deficit.

Earlier this year the 1991 deficit had been projected at a new record of \$91.5 million.

The Holy See's budget covers the Catholic church's central administration, including its diplomatic missions around the world, its newspaper and Vatican Radio.

Income comes mostly from investments, real estate holdings in Italy and contributions from the faithful.

The statement said that as in the past, most of the deficit would be covered by "Peter's pence," a special collection dating back 12 centuries which is taken up once a year in Roman Catholic churches around the world for the Pope's personal use.

Before the Holy See began running huge deficits in the mid-1980s, "Peter's pence" was traditionally destined for overseas missions and other charitable works.

## Japanese banks to lend Romania \$1 billion

BUCHAREST (AP) — Japanese banks will lend hard-currency strapped Romania \$1 billion for modernising its dilapidated transport system, Transport Minister Traian Basescu has said. The loan would be one of the largest credit packages ever received by Romania. It also appeared to reflect developing economic relations between Romania and Western countries, which have shunned it because of suspicion that the post-communist authorities were not fully committed to democracy and free markets. The state news agency Rompres reported that foreign investment in Romania has reached a total value of \$120 million, with 4,767 companies funded partly or totally from 91 foreign countries. Mr. Basescu told a news conference the Japanese loan takes effect Dec. 1.

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## Mexican president proposes sweeping agricultural reforms

MEXICO CITY (R) — President Carlos Salinas has moved to reform Mexico's antiquated system of land tenure by proposing an end to a ban on private-sector ownership of half the national territory.

The reform is contained in a bill Mr. Salinas presented to the congress that proposes ending all free land distribution to peasants.

The legislation would lift a longstanding ban on private-sector ownership of ejidos — small plots of farm land carved out of large estates expropriated after the 1910-1917 revolution and handed out to millions of landless peasants.

The country's 28,000 ejidos cover 100 million hectares (250 million acres) of land or roughly half the national territory, a government official said.

The proposed reforms, virtually guaranteed passage by the ruling party-controlled congress, would allow corporations to buy land or win control of it through joint ventures.

Unlike other farmers, the ejidos' nominal owners are prohibited by current legislation from mortgaging their property as collateral for bank loans. They have long been dependent on an inefficient and chaotic state bureaucracy



Carlos Salinas

and criticised for low productivity.

Mr. Salinas's reforms are sure to draw criticism from leftist parties and peasant organisations wary of increasing private control over agriculture.

But the preamble to the bill presented to congress notes that Mexico's population growth has outstripped increases in agricultural production for the past 25 years and that the countryside is urgently in need of reform.

"Rural income, on average, is almost three times lower than in the rest of the economy and a majority of the residents of rural Mexico live in poverty," says the bill, adding that the average Mexican farmer has less than five hectares (12 acres) of land.

Mr. Salinas's reforms would end the longstanding practice of agrarian reform under which Mexican presidents have distributed millions of acres of land to poor peasant families since the revolution, which was fought under the battle-cry of "land and liberty."

The proposed reforms, virtually guaranteed passage by the ruling party-controlled congress, would allow corporations to buy land or win control of it through joint ventures.

Mr. Salinas's reforms would maintain the existing ban on the accumulation of large tracts of land by private farmers — a ban often violated by "small landlords" using several different family names to build up estates.

The treasury goes to the well every three months in a three-day event called the "quarterly refunding" to replenish its supply of borrowed money.

It has no choice except to do so, since the government spent a record \$268.7 billion more than it took in during the 1991 financial year that ended Sept. 30. It is headed for a new estimated re-

## Abu Dhabi may lose \$5b in BCCI scam

LONDON (R) — Abu Dhabi stands to lose a huge sum of perhaps \$5 billion in the BCCI bank scandal, the Financial Times (F.T.) said Saturday.

The emirate's ruler, Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, and Abu Dhabi institutions are majority shareholders in the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), closed on July 5 in a world swoop by banking regulators who suspected a colossal fraud.

The Financial Times published the first of seven articles under the headline "the biggest bank fraud in history" after what it said was its own three-month investigation.

It said figures assembled for the first time showed Abu Dhabi

b's total exposure was \$9.4 billion, more than \$6 billion having been pumped in to try to prevent the bank's collapse in its last 15 months of trading.

"Abu Dhabi may recoup some of this as the bank is liquidated, but over half, the F.T. believes, is gone for good," the Financial Times said.

It said regulators from several nations had condemned BCCI "Sandstorm." They met in London last July 2 to consider, in what was "a sickening moment," new evidence suggesting that suspected fraud at BCCI was on an incalculable scale.

They then had to decide whether to risk a political storm by closing it. Asking Abu Dhabi to cover the vast losses was no longer an option. A rapid swoop was decided upon.

until several months later that he learned he had been asked to bail out what is now estimated to be history's biggest bank fraud.

The newspaper said it had put together the pieces of the BCCI jigsaw in a story ranging "from the brothels of Lahore to the remote Scottish islands."

It said Abu Dhabi's ruler put in some \$2.2 billion after a dramatic encounter with the bank's president, Pakistan-based Agha Hasan Abedi, who, recovering from a heart transplant, flew to plead for help in early 1990.

The Financial Times said the Abu Dhabi ruler was reported to have said: "You look after your bank." The newspaper said it was not

## Egyptian tourism picks up

CAIRO (R) — Tourists are visiting the Pyramids and cruising down the Nile once more and Egypt's tourism minister said he expects record numbers in the coming year.

Tourism revenues fell by over \$2 billion during the Gulf crisis, according to official estimates. Luxury hotels stood deserted and Nile cruisers lay idle.

"We expect a 10 per cent increase from the old peak in number of tourists to about three million during the next financial year," said Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan in an interview. "This would be a new all-time high."

The previous peak was reached in the fiscal year to June 1990, when tourism earnings reached \$2.4 billion.

Samir Darwish, deputy chairman of Egypt's Tourist Board, said Arab-Israeli peace talks should entice more visitors to the region. "This is a very sensitive industry," he said. "Once you have peace, more people will be encouraged."

Europeans are flocking in on package tours but tourism from the United States, which has dropped steadily since the mid-1980s, is still slack.

Hotellers say Americans are still worried about terrorism.

Tourism is vulnerable to Western perceptions of the Middle East as a war-torn den of terrorists. But Mr. Sultan said he expected Egypt to benefit from its support of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war.

Egypt sent some 40,000 troops to the force that drove Iraq from Kuwait.

"Egypt's image improved substantially during the crisis. We were a key ally and this should help," he said.

Cairo streets are once more filled with puzzled Westerners trying to decipher street names. convoys of air-conditioned coaches can be seen parked by the Pyramids every day, while boatmen again play their sails up and down the Nile.

Hotellers said room occupancy was running at over 85 per cent. "We have seen a dramatic return," said Andrew Houghton, marketing manager of the Marriott Hotel in Cairo. "There seems to have been a frustrated demand to visit the area."

## UAE imports rise sharply

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) non-oil external trade increased 16 per cent in 1990 to 57.71 billion dirham from 49.73 billion dirham in 1989, the Emirates news agency (WAM) has said.

It quoted a statement from the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry as saying imports last year amounted to about 42.5 billion dirham compared with 37.0 billion dirham in 1989.

One dollar equals 3.671 dirham.

It said exports rose to 3.6 billion dirham from 3.46 billion in 1989 and reexports increased to 11.6 billion dirham from 9.3 billion dirham.

## U.S. debt bazaar winds down but only for 3 months

WASHINGTON (R) — A three-day auction of U.S. government securities that ended Thursday is a sort of debt bazaar, an official borrowing binge to finance spending deficits reaching new records every year.

Unlike a cap-in-hand consumer, the Treasury Department can raise \$38 billion fairly handily by pledging repayment backed by "the full faith and credit" of the U.S. government.

Though that government now has accumulated debts of \$3,707,595,000,000, it also has the wherewithal to make its word good — by squeezing the taxpayer in whose name it runs up the debt.

The treasury goes to the well every three months in a three-day event called the "quarterly refunding" to replenish its supply of borrowed money.

It has no choice except to do so, since the government spent a record \$268.7 billion more than it took in during the 1991 financial year that ended Sept. 30. It is headed for a new estimated re-

cord deficit of around \$350 billion in the current tax year — all of it covered by borrowing.

But the auctions this time, beginning Tuesday with a sale of \$14 billion of three-year notes and including \$12 billion each of 10-year notes in Wednesday and 30-year bonds on Thursday, were not tidy.

Changes in the rules for bidding, intended to open the market up to more dealers because of the admission earlier this year by Salomon Bros Inc. that it cheated in previous auctions to try to corner the market, were partly blamed.

With more people in the market, dealers bid cautiously for the notes on the first two days. The Tuesday and Wednesday auctions pushed up costs for the treasury — and the American taxpayer — by tens of millions of dollars in higher interest over the life of the securities because the notes had to offer a higher return to attract investors.

For example, the treasury said its sale of 10-year notes produced

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Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

## U.S. to apply sanctions against Yugoslavia; Dubrovnik shelled

THE HAGUE (R) — President George Bush said Saturday the United States will apply sanctions against Yugoslavia and will co-sponsor a United Nations resolution calling for an oil embargo against the country.

"We will apply sanctions on Yugoslavia comparable to those of the EC," Mr. Bush told a news conference.

"The EC can also depend on the United States to co-sponsor a new U.N. Security Council resolution on Yugoslavia looking for a possible oil embargo and cooperate fully in efforts to strengthen an embargo on arms exports to Yugoslavia," he added.

Mr. Bush spoke after holding talks with European Community leaders.

The EC imposed broad economic sanctions on Yugoslavia Friday after the warring factions refused to abide by a 12th ceasefire agreed in the Hague Tuesday.

The EC sanctions suspend trade concessions, ban imports of Yugoslav textiles and drop Belgrade from a 24-nation recovery programme for Eastern Europe.

The EC also urged the U.N. Security Council to impose an oil embargo to cut off fuel to the warring Serbian and Croatian forces.

The Security Council's five permanent members — the Un-

ited States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — are due to discuss the question of an oil embargo late Monday, diplomats said.

The Security Council imposed an arms embargo on Yugoslavia on Sept. 25.

The EC has led international efforts to broker a peace accord in the disintegrating Balkan federation but an EC-sponsored peace conference in the Hague has failed to make any headway.

Heavy fighting continued Saturday as Yugoslav navy gunboats shelled Croatia's Adriatic port of Dubrovnik and fierce battles were reported in the east of the breakaway republic.

At least 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of Serbs and federal troops have been killed in fighting since Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia in June.

Zagreb Radio said the attack on Dubrovnik, a mediaeval city under siege since the start of Baker, began after dawn.

"Dubrovnik is reverberating with explosions," it said.

A Reuters correspondent in the walled town reported that four warships were bombarding Croatian positions around the old city and that normal telephone and telex communications with the outside world had been cut.

## U.S. policy faces test as Baker begins Asia trip

THE HAGUE (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, preoccupied for most of 1991 with revolutionary changes in Europe and Middle East peace moves, began to turn his attention Saturday to Asia, where U.S. policy is being tested.

Baker was due to begin an eight-day trip to Japan, Korea and China — a visit of heightened significance since President George Bush announced he was postponing a separate trip to the

region for domestic political reasons.

Mr. Baker leaves after joining Mr. Bush at trade talks in the Hague with European Community (EC) officials following the NATO summit in Rome.

China, Japan and South Korea are eager for visits by Mr. Baker, but rapid change in other areas, U.S. policy considerations and personal preferences precluded them until now.

Critics say the Bush adminis-

tration has neglected the economically vital region.

Mr. Bush made a brief swing through all three countries in early 1989 and had planned a more substantive visit to Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Australia later this month until a barrage of criticism that he was ignoring domestic affairs.

He has vowed to reschedule the Japan leg before the 1992 presidential election but for now, Mr. Baker will be the senior U.S.

Critics say the Bush adminis-

### 21 die in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Twenty-one black miners were killed overnight in fresh fighting at a violence-plagued South African gold mine, the mine owners said Saturday.

Anglo American said in a statement 44 more workers were injured in the fighting which broke out just before midnight at President Steyn Gold Mine near Welkom in the Orange Free State.

Last Sunday 15 blacks were killed at the mine in fighting linked to a two-day general strike called by unions trying to force the government to give them a say in policy-making.

UNAMIC is on the ground," declared Atsal Karim, a Bangladeshi, who will head civilian operations of the 268-person United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia.

"We are here to see that the ceasefire, which is now official, is maintained," Mr. Karim told reporters.

He arrived early Saturday morning with Indonesian Colonel Ferry Inggoro, who is interim leader of the soldiers of the multinational force.

UNAMIC will include 50 military officers from 22 nations, a 40-member Australian Communications Group, 20 mine-clearing experts from New Zealand and helicopters with 111 mechanics and crew.

Mr. Karim said the advanced team would also lay the groundwork for building up the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) which will have a larger, long-term force.

### Leaders of U.N. advance force in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Leaders of a U.N. force that will try to keep the peace in Cambodia after two decades of war and political turmoil arrived Saturday.

"UNAMIC is on the ground,"

decided Atsal Karim, a Bangladeshi, who will head civilian operations of the 268-person United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia.

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## Philippine flood death toll reaches 7,000

MANILA (R) — Rescuers Saturday hauled up bloated bodies by fishing nets off a central Philippine island where more than 7,000 people may have died in devastating floods, relief officials said.

Navy boats and fishermen retrieved hundreds of corpses from the sea off Ormoc City in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 5,365 with 2,046 other people missing and presumed dead, officials in the Leyte provincial capital, Taclobon, said.

"They are hauling up bodies by fishing nets," said Aurora Laboy, administrative officer for the Leyte Disaster Coordinating Council.

"There is a possibility the death toll will go up to close to 8,000... the missing are most likely dead by now. We have no more hope for them," Ms. Laboy said by telephone.

President Corazon Aquino is to fly to Ormoc, 560 kilometres south east of Manila, Sunday to inspect the damage from the worst natural calamity to hit her disaster-prone country in 15

## Bush says racism, nationalism threaten democracy in E. Europe

THE HAGUE (R) — U.S. President George Bush warned Saturday that racism disguised as nationalism threatened the spread of democracy in Eastern Europe and urged Europe and the United States to avoid becoming warring trade blocs.

He chided the EC countries for divisions between them on how to deal with the crisis and added: "With these sanctions, Europe has thrown the burden of responsibility on to the United Nations."

"It will be the United Nations which will have to make the final decision about economic sanctions."

In Belgrade, Petar Kundric, secretary-general of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia, described the measures as a "great injustice" to Serbia and their allies.

"Arrogant Europe put into action its threat of poverty and hunger for those in Yugoslavia who are faced with a defensive war for political, economic, cultural and even biological survival."

Yugoslav economists believe the country's economy has been so badly damaged by the conflict that the effect of sanctions will barely be felt.

"No boycott could ever do what we have already done to ourselves," said Ljubomir Madzar, a professor of economics at Belgrade University.

He said no one needed to fear healthy, national pride but added: "We must guard against nationalism of a more sinister sort. One that pits nation against nation and citizen against citizen."

"There can be no place for these old animosities in the New

Europe."

"We see in Yugoslavia how the proud name of nationalism can splinter a country into bloody civil war," Mr. Bush said, adding that he supported European Community efforts to end the Yugoslav conflict.

Bush, in remarks prepared for delivery before European Community leaders, also urged support for reforms in the Soviet Union and cautioned that Europe and America must help because "desperate times breed demagogues."

"Some fear democracy's new freedoms will be used not to build a new trust, but to settle old scores," Mr. Bush said, pointing to the fighting in Yugoslavia as an example.

"All of Europe has awakened to the dangers of an old enemy: A nationalism animated by hatred and unmoved by nobler ends," Mr. Bush said.

He told the group the United States welcomed the growth of the EC into a major economic force, and said Washington wanted to work as a partner rather than become a competitor.

"We must guard against the danger that old cold war allies will become new economic adversaries — old warriors turned trade warriors," he said.

"There are signs on both sides of the Atlantic that this could happen," he said. "Shrill voices on both sides peddle protectionism as the path to prosperity.

"That way lies economic ruin — a prescription for plunging us

into the kind of impoverishing rivalry that ravaged our economies during the great depression."

Declaring that great progress has been made tearing down international trade barriers, Bush warned that "that progress will mean little if the world aligns itself into warring trade blocs."

In discussing the Soviet Union, where President Mikhail Gorbachev has called for massive help from the West, Mr. Bush said "the people everywhere in that vast land want change."

He said that "no short can spare them suffering" and hardship as they dig out from under 70 years of misrule."

"A harsh winter, hard times, lie ahead, and desperate times breed demagogues," he said, adding that America and Europe share a common interest in helping reforms succeed.

"Together, we must act to support the forces of liberty, democracy and free enterprise in that troubled region," he said.

Mr. Bush met the EC leaders after attending a NATO summit in Rome which approved a new post-cold-war strategy embracing the Soviet Union and East European countries as partners.

## COLUMN 10

### Homeless who sued over body odour wins cash settlement

NEW YORK (R) — A homeless man was awarded \$150,000 Friday to settle his claims that police and a public library discriminated against him because they said he was a noxious smell.

Officials in the New York suburb of Morristown, New Jersey had already spent up to \$250,000 in legal fees fighting the case.

The homeless man, Richard Kreimer, 42, agreed to drop his lawsuit against municipal officials in exchange for the \$150,000.

Bush said it was time to write the final chapter of the cold war and urged EC leaders to "help the nations of the East secure the freedoms they have won."

"It is time now to say to these new democracies we will help you," he said, but did not offer any specific types of support.

He told the group the United States welcomed the growth of the EC into a major economic force, and said Washington wanted to work as a partner rather than become a competitor.

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## Yeltsin's troops land in Caucasus republic



Boris Yeltsin

A parliamentary official, Isaac Kodzoyev, told reporters in Grozny: "There is no need for the military to interfere in our internal affairs. We prefer the language of negotiations."

He added: "Our motto is to avoid bloodshed, but if there is bloodshed, anything could happen."

Mr. Kodzoyev said Mr. Yeltsin's actions showed he was willing to champion the rights of Russians but not of ethnic minorities.

"We saw Yeltsin as an icon, but it seems he wants only freedom for the Russians. Today the myth of Russian democracy died," he said.

A Russian Interior Ministry spokesman said he could neither confirm nor deny that troops sent to Grozny were surrounded by Chechen rebels.

Mr. Sosolambekov said he had four hours of talks with the troops' commander, demanding that they lay down their arms and fly back. They had not responded, he said.

Sharp Yusupov, Dudayev's representative in Moscow, said an additional 800 crack Russian Interior Ministry troops, known as Spetsnaz, had also been surrounded at their headquarters in Grozny by the region's National Guard.

Soviet news agency (TASS) said thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Grozny and turned it into an "armed fortress" as Mr. Yeltsin was surrounded in Grozny. The Soviet Interior Ministry said it would issue a statement Sunday.

The small autonomous republic, north of Georgia between the Caspian and the Black Sea, has been part of Russia since its incorporation into the Tsarist empire in 1859. Its people are mostly Sunnis Muslims.

Its defiance of Mr. Yeltsin set the stage for all-out confrontation, posing a test of the Russian leader's authority over ethnic minorities which are flirting with the idea of independence.

Agriculture Department officials said food groups and individuals, many of them carrying weapons, were massing in Grozny in response to Gen. Dudayev's call to try to hold the union together.

But analysts said the central government does not appear to have authority to handle the credits or guarantee loan repayment. They say the republics will have to have a greater voice in how the credits should be used.

A representative from a private voluntary organisation that might help distribute aid said administration officials told him "humanitarian aid would be a lot less than the Soviets asked for and would be targeted to (neediest people)."

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## U.S. may raise republics' role in handling Soviet aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, watching the accelerated break-up of the Soviet Union, may be forced to work more directly with the republics to distribute food aid this winter, U.S. trade sources said Friday.

The Soviet central government has disintegrated so rapidly in recent weeks that the Bush administration must reassess its commitment to conduct most food assistance through a central government committee, trade sources and analysts said.

The sources also said they expected the United States to offer a more modest aid package than the \$2.5 billion in agriculture credits and \$1 billion in humanitarian aid the Soviet Union requested.

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